

## **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CLE ELUM RESERVIOR POOL RAISE**

The Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are beginning preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Cle Elum Reservoir Pool Raise Project. The EIS will be a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) EIS. Reclamation and Ecology are requesting comments regarding the scope.

**Lead Agency:** Reclamation and Ecology are joint lead agencies for the combined NEPA and SEPA process

**SEPA Responsible Official:** Derek I. Sandison, Director Office of Columbia River, Washington State Department of Ecology

**EIS Required:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation proposes to prepare an EIS for the Cle Elum Reservoir Pool Raise, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, Integrated Water Resource Management Plan. Ecology has determined that an EIS is required under SEPA (Chapter 43.21C RCW).

**Action:** Notice of Intent

**Location:** Kittitas County, Washington

### **Description of Proposal:**

The Cle Elum Pool Raise Project is proposed as part of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan). The Integrated Plan is comprised of seven elements which were evaluated in a Programmatic EIS issued March 2, 2012:

1. Reservoir Fish Passage;
2. Structural and Operational Changes;
3. Surface Water Storage;
4. Groundwater Storage;
5. Habitat/Watershed Protection and Enhancement;
6. Enhanced Water Conservation; and
7. Water Market Reallocation of Water Resources.

As described in the PEIS, the Reclamation and the Ecology will complete project-level, site-specific environmental review for individual actions and projects within the Integrated Plan once the agencies are ready to move forward each action or groups of actions. Reclamation and

Ecology have determined that it is appropriate to initiate the environmental review process with regard to the Cle Elum Reservoir Pool Raise.

The proposed action to be evaluated in the Cle Elum Reservoir Pool Raise EIS is to modify the radial gates at Cle Elum Dam to provide an additional 14,600 acre-feet of storage capacity. This modification would raise the pool level by approximately 3 feet. The objective of this action is to use the additional water stored to provide increased seasonal releases from Cle Elum Reservoir to improve streamflows for fish. The Cle Elum Pool Raise Project is authorized in Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (Sec. 1206, Pub. L. 103-43).

**Scoping Meeting Dates:** Two scoping meetings, combined with open houses each day, will be held on the following dates and times:

- November 20, 2013, 1:30pm to 3:30pm, and 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Yakima Area Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Way, Yakima, WA.
- November 21, 2013, 1:30pm to 3:30pm, and 5:00pm to 7:00pm, U.S. Forest Service (Cle Elum Ranger District Conference Room), 803 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Cle Elum, WA.

**Comments:** Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Comments on the scope of the EIS must be received by December 16, 2013, at the address listed below.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Email: [yrbwep@usbr.gov](mailto:yrbwep@usbr.gov)

Mail: Ms. Candace McKinley, Environmental Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901

**For further information contact:** Ms. Candace McKinley, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901; telephone (509) 575-5848, ext. 232; facsimile (509) 454-5650; email [yrbwep@usbr.gov](mailto:yrbwep@usbr.gov).